

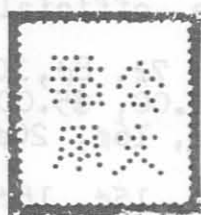
the sinkiang official perfins

by ray crow

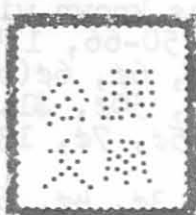
Between 1915 and 1945, overprints were applied to various Chinese stamps consigned to the frontier province of Sinkiang in order to limit their use to that province. The purpose was to prevent speculation in stamps due to the inferior currency of Sinkiang, which was worth only up to about a third of the national currency.

The Sinkiang post office operated at a deficit, which was made good by the provincial government. In return, the post office perforated certain issues of the overprinted stamps for free use by the government on official correspondence. The perforation, in Chinese characters reading downward from the right, is "kung wen t'ieh yung," which means "official papers sticker use."

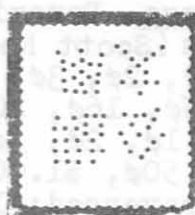
The Sinkiang Perfin is known in eight different positions, as shown in the following illustrations (bearing in mind that the view in each instance is that obtained by looking at the face of the stamp):



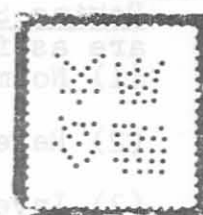
(1) Normal



(2) Reversed



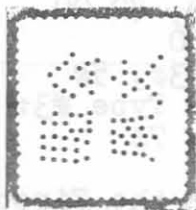
(3) Inverted-Reversed



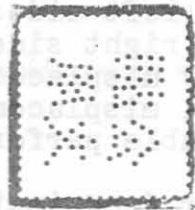
(4) Inverted



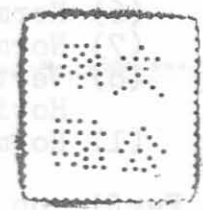
(5) Reversed -
On Right Side



(6) Normal -
On Left Side



(7) Normal -
On Right Side



(8) Vertically
Misplaced

One explanation advanced for the eight different positions, which seems logical, is that the sheets of stamps were folded twice (into four sections) for the perforating. If the folded sheet were placed in the perforator upright, this would account for the first four positions. If it were placed in the perforator sideways, the last four positions would be created. In any event, as these stamps were not sold to the public, it appears that no great care was taken with the perforating. Various missing-pin varieties exist, some with so many pins missing as to make the characters illegible.

In his excellent article on these Sinkiang official Perfins, appearing in the February 1940 issue of the "China Clipper," Elbridge Colby grouped the stamps as follows:

China, 1915, printed in Peking, surcharged with top character misplaced to the left (Figure 1) becomes Sinkiang, 1915, First Issue, Shanghai Surcharge. Denominations known with the official Perfin are as follows (Scott Nos. 1-6, 9-13, 15):

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- (1) Normal: ½¢, 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 8¢, 10¢, 15¢, 16¢, 20¢, 50¢
- (2) Reversed: ½¢, 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 8¢, 10¢, 15¢, 16¢, 20¢
- (3) Inverted-reversed: 3¢
- (4) Inverted: 1¢

Fig. 1

(continued on Page 6)

China, 1916 and 1919, printed in Peking, surcharged with top character in line (Figure 2), become Sinkiang, 1916, Second Issue, Peking Surcharge. Denominations known with the official Perfin are as follows (Scott Nos. 17-36):

限新省貼用

Fig. 2

- (1) Normal: $\frac{1}{2}\phi$, 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 7 ϕ , 8 ϕ , 10 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00
- (2) Reversed: $\frac{1}{2}\phi$, 1 ϕ , 1 $\frac{1}{2}\phi$, 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 7 ϕ , 8 ϕ , 10 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00
- (3) Inverted-reversed: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 8 ϕ , 10 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00
- (4) Inverted: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 7 ϕ , 8 ϕ , 10 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00
- (5) Reversed-on right side: \$1.00
- (6) Normal-on left side: \$1.00, \$2.00
- (2) Reversed-double perforation: 5 ϕ

China, 1924 - 1936, surcharged, become Sinkiang, 1924, Third Issue, Peking Surcharge. Denominations known with the official Perfin are as follows (Scott Nos. 48, 50-66, 114):

- (1) Normal: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 6 ϕ (brown), 7 ϕ , 8 ϕ , 10 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00
- (2) Reversed: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 5 ϕ , 7 ϕ , 13, 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 20 ϕ , 30 ϕ , 50 ϕ , \$1.00
- (3) Inverted-reversed: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 30 ϕ
- (4) Inverted: 1 ϕ , 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 4 ϕ , 6 ϕ , 13 ϕ , 15 ϕ , 16 ϕ , 30 ϕ
- (5) Reversed-on right side: \$1.00
- (6) Normal-on left side: \$1.00, \$2.00
- (7) Normal-on right side: \$1.00
- (8) Vertically misplaced: 2 ϕ , 3 ϕ , 5 ϕ
Horizontal misplacement of Type #3: \$2.00
- (1) Normal-double perforation: 7 ϕ

The Perfin on the $\frac{1}{2}\phi$ denomination of the First Issue is quite scarce. The dollar denominations on the Second and Third Issues are also hard to find. Officially used covers franked with these Perfins are especially scarce and valuable.

According to C. W. Chiu, the use of the Sinkiang official Perfins began in 1915 and continued to January 16, 1943. After that date, postage was charged and paid by the government, but the use of postage stamps was replaced by a "Postage Paid" chop.

(Editor's note: this article is a compilation of information from various sources, primarily the bibliographical sources listed below. A special note of thanks is due my good friend and fellow Memphian, Stanley J. Kruger, a China specialist who kindly provided me with the reference material needed.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Chiu, C. W., Chiu's Supplement, Volume 1, Chapter 1, July 1952, published by C. W. Chiu, Hong Kong

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